

D-2764

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

File No. B. REGISTRY.

S. 2. Special Branch

REPORT

Date May 10, 1935

Subject The Local Japanese Consular Police requests information regarding
Hans Sletten Peters.

Made by D.S. Kamashita

Forwarded by

B.B. Everett, D.

The local Japanese Consular Police requests the Municipal Police to make investigation and furnish them some information regarding the occupation, ideas, associates and movements of an individual named Hans Sletten Peters, age 41, suspected Comintern agent, who is at present residing in Tokyo, Japan.

He claimed to have arrived in Shanghai from New York in 1924. He obtained employment with the Tobacco Producing Co. (?) as a cashier, but left for Japan in 1925. In 1926 he joined the Shanghai Municipal Police. He was dismissed from the force in 1927 and proceeded to Manila. In 1930 he was employed by the Shanghai Horse Bazaar and Motor Co., 993 Bubbling Well Road. In 1933 he was employed by the Cosmos Paper Co., Hamilton House, as a sales-man. He left for Japan in May 1933 and has since been residing in Tokyo.

H. Kamashita

D. S.

Deputy Commissioner, Special Branch.

\$2, Please let Japanese Consular Police see this file confidentially.

D.S. Kamashita

B.B. Everett

J.H.G.

11 MAY 1935

Shown to Japanese Consular Police on 15/5/35.

M.H.

12/5/35.

File
J.H.G.
18 MAY 1935

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1932

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 2984
Date 10.1.32

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY.
No. D 2764
Date 1.5.34

GERMAN SENTENCED TO GAOL TERM

Instigator Of Theft Of Famine Wheat From America

Heinz Peters, alleged German instigator of the recent theft of more than \$6,000 worth of wheat forming part of a shipment from America to relieve the famine in the Yangtze, was sentenced to a year's imprisonment by the 1st Special District Court yesterday when he appeared on remand on a charge of stealing the wheat.

Accused was alleged at the trial to be the brains of a foreign organization which was responsible for the unloading of the wheat from a lighter into motor trucks which transported it to a godown which he rented in the Hongkew District.

Hickey, an associate of Peters and an employee of a transportation company which had charge of the unloading of the wheat, last week was convicted by Judge Milton D. Purdy, in the U.S. Court for China, of embezzling the wheat and was sentenced to serve a year and a day's imprisonment in the McNeill Island Penitentiary in Washington.

It was stated at the trial of Peters that the affair was exposed during a conversation between an employee of a truck company from whom Peters hired the trucks and a man from the express company in charge of the unloading of the wheat.

File JH

See also Hongkew.
Crime Register No 2900
See B.S. 303 and
S. 2764

RECEIVED
S. S. REGISTRY
B. D. 2989
5. 1. 32.

THEFT OF FLOOD RELIEF WHEAT

Court Reserves Judgment in
Case Against German

Judgment was reserved until next Monday in the case against H. Peters, German, who was charged in the Shanghai Special District Court with theft, on December 7 last, of 746 bags of American wheat shipped to China for the relief of flood sufferers.

The hearing of the case, which occupied many sessions of the Court, was resumed yesterday morning when Mr. T. Y. Chang, the Assistant Municipal Advocate, prosecuting, told the Court that an American, who implicated the accused as the brain of an organization responsible for the theft, had been sentenced by the American consular authorities for his part in the offence and that a Chinese laodah alleged to have been paid \$70 by accused to "hush up" the story regarding the transportation of the stolen wheat was in Court as a witness.

The laodah, who gave his name as Sze Foh-keng, was then questioned and he stated he worked on a steamer belonging to a local foreign transport company. On the night of December 7 last, witness stated, he was told by Hickey, then in charge of all vessels of the transport company, to move a lighter to the Lay Road Jetty for repairs. Witness denied having received any money from accused and stated he had never seen the latter before.

In answer to the Judge, the accused said he gave \$20 to Hickey and not to the laodah because Hickey told him he was in need of money.

Counsel for the accused then called E. Schuster, German, as a witness for defence, it being stated that accused was formerly a salesman in witness' firm. The witness, however, was not questioned by the Court when he admitted knowing nothing about the case.

S2, Please see and pass to Reg
File
Reg File SBR. 15/1

MISSING RELIEF WHEAT

German Charged Before District Court

AMERICAN ALLEGED TO BE INVOLVED

G. Peters, German, against whom a writ of detention was issued by the Special District Court on December 12 on the suspicion of pilfering over \$3,000 worth of American wheat for flood relief purpose which arrived in Shanghai on December 7, was charged before Judge Sun in this regard yesterday morning, the police having completed their inquiries in the case and it being alleged that sufficient evidence had been gathered against the accused.

Prosecuting, Mr. T. Y. Chang, the Assistant Municipal Advocate, told the Court that, during the period of accused's detention, the police visited a transport company at 8 Yuen Ming Yuen Road where it was learned that accused hired trucks from that firm to transport a quantity of wheat from the Lay Road jetty to a godown in the Hongkew District on December 7 when the theft was committed. An American concerned in the affair had also implicated accused, counsel stated.

Accused Surrendered

Det.-Insp. Knight stated that Mr. Hunt, of the transport company in charge of the distribution of the American wheat among the flooded areas, reported the disappearance of over \$3,000 worth of wheat to the police on December 12. The trucks used to transport the stolen cereal were found to have been hired at 8 Yuen Ming Yuen Road and the wheat was removed from the Lay Road jetty under the instructions of Deitz, a German citizen. Deitz surrendered to the police on December 12 and stated he had been engaged to do this by the accused. The latter, who also surrendered himself, admitted at the police station that he had instructed Deitz to remove the wheat, but he implicated a Chinese by the name of Lo Ping whose whereabouts he refused to reveal.

Questioned by the Court, accused denied having conspired with an American in planning the theft and stated he could produce several foreign witnesses to testify in regard to his innocence. He stated he had known the Amer. in for about two years and that about two or three weeks ago, he went to his house where they conversed in the presence of several foreigners. He had never had a chance of speaking to him alone, accused stated. The American, accused added, asked him to join a wheat business and it was arranged to divide the profits from the business among himself, and the other two. On December 5, accused stated he was instructed by the American to hire lighters for use two days afterwards in connection with the wheat transportation.

The Court remanded the case until Thursday morning when it is expected that the American, who is alleged to be concerned in the theft, will be able to testify in the Court.

File
JLB
21/12/31

German Held On Suspicion Of Pilfering Flood Wheat

946 Bags Of American Cereal Alleged To Have Been
Cleverly Removed By Truck; U.S. District
Attorney Starts Probe

Settlement police are at present holding a German named G. Peters in connection with the disappearance of 946 bags of flood relief wheat from the United States, valued at over \$3,000, which arrived here December 7. Other foreigners are believed to have been concerned in the disappearance of the wheat which is said to have been disposed of in the course of a well-planned scheme. Police have already recovered the stolen cargo, but continue their search for the alleged accomplices.

The wheat was unloaded on December 7, from a steamer on the Whangpoo into a lighter which drew up alongside the Lay Road Jetty. From there it was transported by truck to a godown at 23 Futuh Road, in the Hongkew District where subsequently it was discovered by the police.

The matter-of-fact way and thoroughness with which the theft was carried out completely disarmed the suspicions of those on board. The shortage later was discovered by a local transportation company which had been entrusted with the task of distributing the wheat among the various areas along the Yangtze affected by the flood.

Surrenders To Police

Meagre details of the pilferage came to light before Judge Sun in the First Special District court yesterday when Mr. T. Y. Chang, Assistant Municipal Advocate successfully applied for a detention order against G. Peters, an alleged German, living at 467 Rue Lafayette, who surrendered himself to the Hongkew police on Friday. Peters will be held by the police pending a complete investigation as to the part he is alleged to have played in the theft and will be charged if there was enough evidence against him.

Peters declared that he bought the wheat from an American supervisor of the transportation company in charge of its distribution. He said that no definite terms were agreed upon, but that it was arranged that he should take delivery of the wheat from the vessel. He asserted that he had been duped and had not the slightest reason for suspecting that the wheat did not belong to the seller.

The American, it was ascertained, was interrogated a few days ago by Dr. Geo. Sellatt, U.S. District Attorney, who started investigations into the case.

"Without Country"

"I am a man without a country" Peters stated, when asked to give his nationality to the court. He was described by the police as a German and told the court that he travelled a lot.

He went on to state that he had asked a man named Dietz to attend to the unloading of the wheat from the steamer. Dietz, it was said, also called at the Hongkew station on Friday and explained that the unloading was carried out by an express company at his request, and upon instructions which he received from Peters. He was not detained by the police.

Questioned by Judge Sun, Peters said that the price which he was to pay for the wheat was left over for consideration at a later date between himself and the seller.

Mr. Chang then asked the court to make an order for the return of the wheat to the transportation company so that its distribution among the famine-stricken people may not be delayed. This was granted.

* See "H."
F.I.R. 2900.

Noted.
JHB
15/12

PD \$2

Please note
and pass (Reg. to
file.

JHB
14/12/22

17/12/22

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

File No. _____
Section 20.3 Station
D. D. 2764
Date October 12, 1931.
13 - 10 - 31

Subject (in full) Alleged suspicious activities of H.F. Peters, K. Fracke and H. Dietz.

Made by D.S. Prokofiev.

Forwarded by

D.B. Kim. A.1.

With reference to the attached report of September 21, 1931, forwarding a statement made by Mrs. M. Christensen, on the subject of the above individuals, diligent enquiries have been made regarding the antecedents and present activities of these persons with the following results:-

1) H.F. Peters, German, born 1894 in Listeln, Westphalia, Germany, arrived in Shanghai from Japan during the early part of 1926. He comes of a respectable family, and received a good education. He speaks several European languages including English, French, Swedish, Norwegian and Danish fluently. On October 1, 1926 he was engaged by the Shanghai Municipal Police and was appointed constable No. 47 on probation. This position he retained until February 15, 1927, when he was obliged to resign, as it had become known that prior to coming to Shanghai he had incurred certain debts in Japan, which he failed to pay, and that he was suspected of being a rather shady character.

For the greater part of the time, after leaving the Police, Peters has been residing in Shanghai. He has been unable to secure permanent employment and only could obtain work of a temporary nature with certain local firms. Occasionally he was compelled to apply to the local German Benevolent Association for help. Through the medium of this society he recently obtained his present position with the Cosmos Paper Co. No. 33 Kiangsi Road.

Peters, in addition to being registered with the German Consulate, also holds Chinese passport No. 1587, which was issued to him by the Shanghai Public Safety Bureau on July 4, 1931. In this document he is described as being a person "without nationality". It is reported that he poses as an American. His movements during the two past years are as follows:- Resided

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

(2)

Date

Station,

19

Subject (in full)

Made by

Forwarded by

at No.71 Bubuling Well Road from 10/12/30 to 30/12/30, when he removed to No.59 Avenue Road. On January 2, 1931 he went to Hong-kong and returned to Shanghai on May 1, 1931. He continued to live at No.59 Avenue Road until August 1, 1931 when he removed to No.18 Carter Road. On or about September 10 he went to live at No.27 MacGregor Road.

It has been ascertained that the majority of the local German residents do not regard Peters as being a respectable person.

2) Dr.K.P. Fracke, German, engineer by profession, married, is reported to have first visited Shanghai for a very short period about three years ago after which he left for North China. In the Hong list of 1929, he is mentioned as being the representative of Ulf-Hansen & Co., Tsinanfu. He returned to Shanghai from Tientsin on December 12, 1930, and took up residence at No.12 Medhurst Road. On March 15, 1931 he removed to No.27 MacGregor Road, his present address. He took over this house from Mr.A.E. Knibb, British, of the Shanghai Power Company, during the latter's absence on long leave. Mr. Knibb's motor car, No.8837, is also being used by Fracke. For some time prior to September 1931, Fracke was employed with the Pacific Foundry Co., 13 Peking Road. He is reported to be unemployed and is at present engaged on an invention concerning the manufacture of motor cars for which he hopes to take out a patent in the U.S.A.

Fracke is not registered at the local German Consulate, but is known to the consular staff by name. He is believed to be a relative of Mr. Harms-Emden, of Sulzer Brothers, No.4 Avenue Edward VII.

On September 19, 1931, Fracke left Shanghai for Dairen by the s.s. "Hoten Maru".

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

(3)

Date

Station,

19

Subject (in full)

Made by

Forwarded by

3) Hans Dietz, German, is believed to be an ex-officer of the German Army, who was taken prisoner by the Russian forces during the Great War and was interned in a camp in Siberia. Following the conclusion of hostilities he proceeded to Harbin. Here he remained until June 1931, when he went to Shanghai. In Shanghai he put up at No.18 Carter Road until about September 10, when he went to live with Fracke at No.27 MacGregor Road. He claims to be a merchant by profession but is at present unemployed.

Very little information is known locally regarding his antecedents. It is reported that while in Harbin he was connected with the Chinese Eastern Railway and was canvassing advertisements for a periodical published by the Economic Bureau of this concern. He came to Shanghai with the original intention of travelling to the U.S.A. but owing to the unfavourable economic conditions prevailing in that country, decided to remain here. In Shanghai he continued to canvass for advertisements for the Chinese Eastern Railway but ^{as} he does not speak English he employed Peters to assist him. Dietz reads and writes Russian well. He is not registered at the German Consulate and his name is unknown to the consular staff.

In connection with this matter Mrs.Christensen was confidentially interviewed by the undersigned with a view to obtaining more information regarding the alleged intention of Dietz to establish a firm in Shanghai under the name of Dietz & Co., with branches at Manila and Hongkong, to deal in goods imported from the U.S.A., but she had little to add to her original statement. It would therefore appear that the whole scheme is still under consideration and that the main difficulty is the raising of the

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Station, _____

(4)

Date _____

19 _____

Subject (in full) _____

Made by _____

Forwarded by _____

sum of \$35,000 to \$40,000 necessary to start the business. Peters is practically penniless and it is rumored that neither Fracke nor Dietz have any financial standing: Dietz hopes to raise part of the money by selling certain horses he alleges to own in Harbin, while Fracke expects to realise money by the sale of his invention. According to Mrs. Christensen, efforts have been made by them to interest certain Chinese in the scheme but without success.

Regarding Mrs. Christensen's suspicions of there being something in the nature of communistic activity behind the scheme, they seem to be very vague and are based chiefly on the fact that she once found (at 18 Carter Road) the three men reading a leaflet which, she believes, had something to do with communism and which she was not allowed to see on the pretext that "she would not understand it". This and the general atmosphere of secrecy surrounding the whole business, quite unnecessary from her point of view, led her to suspect the bona fides of the business.

Should Dietz and his friends succeed in establishing the proposed business in conjunction with the Centrosojus, there will be every reason to suspect them of being engaged in activities which have very little to do with commerce, but as the matter stands at the present time there is no evidence to this effect.

Any further information obtained on this subject will be submitted.

A. Prokofiev

D.

S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

*Filed
13:10:21*

Memorandum.POLICE FORCE,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Shanghai,

22:9: 1931

To

S 2,

For further
investigation
and report
please.

D. I. Ross,

File on C. J. Christensen.
Manila suspect, attached.

P.S. Prokofiev.

ABR/24/9.

23/9

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

Station Ref. File No. 43.

Station,
S. B. D. 2764.
Date Sept. 21st, 1931
e 22-9-31

Subject (in full) Statement made by Mrs. M. Christensen.

Made by D.S.I. Widdowson.

Forwarded by DSI Widdowson.

Sir,

On the 20-9-31, a lady named Mrs. M. Christensen was brought to this Station regarding enquiries into a theft. She admitted removing the stolen articles, but complainant a Mr. Hans Dietz, German of No. 18, Carter Road, refused to charge, and as the circumstances were of an unusual nature the lady was released. See F.I.R. B'Well 849/31.

Whilst in custody, the lady gave us a quantity of information, which we believe may be of interest to the Special Branch.

She is of British birth, age 43 years, maiden name Millie living at either Dallas, Flat No. 2, No. 6 Ferry Road, occupied by a Missionary, or at No. 7 Yang Terrace. Before the war, she married an Austrian named Czay, who died whilst interned in India. She then married one named Christensen, Danish, in India, and he later also died. She came to Shanghai in December 1929, and has subsequently passed as the wife of a man named Peters, German, who it is understood, was dismissed from the S.M.P. in 1926.

She resided with Peters at No. 1 Carter Road when the theft mentioned in B'Well F.I.R. 849/31 took place. A son aged 14, is in custody of a Mr. Smith, of No. 7 Yang Terrace, being supported by the local Masonic Charity Fund. During interrogation, Mrs Christensen stated that her reason for removing the property of Mr. Hans Dietz, the complainant, was, that Dietz is trying to ruin Peters by involving him in a business which she believes to be shady. Peters is now employed by the Cosmos Paper Co. No. 33, Kiangse Road, and is said to be doing fairly well.

Dietz came to Shanghai from Harbin some 3 months ago. Informant states that he had a stable there, which he sold, and had to leave in a hurry. At that time PETERS was unemployed and Dietz

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT (Sheet No. 2)

Bubbling Well Station,

Date Sept. 21st, 1931.

Subject (in full) Statement made by Mrs. M. Christensen.

Made by D.S.I. Widdowson.

Forwarded by _____

Cont.

gave Peters odd jobs to do, canvassing advertisements for the Chinese Eastern Rly, "and other business connected with the Central Soviet in Mukden". After Peters had obtained his present position through the German Benevolent Association, and became independent, Dietz again interested him in a Central Soviet Agency. It was tentatively agreed that an agency was to be inaugurated in Hongkong, Manila and Shanghai, and Mrs Christensen being of British birth, and having connections in Hongkong, was to go there with Peters. Another friend of Dietz, Dr. Fracke, German, engineer, of No. 27 MacGregor Road, is also largely interested in this project. It is believed that he is already connected with the Centrosinus, No. 2 Peking Road. A Mr. Rover, former local representative of the Tass, U.S.S.R. Telegraph Agency is also interested to a large extent.

These and other unknown Russians, believed to be of similar character, had many meetings together at No. 18 Carter Road. As much of the conversation was in German, which Mrs. Christensen understands, she overheard things which caused her to believe that the proposed Agency would have other motives than mere commerce.

She tried to dissuade Peters from engaging in the scheme, and spoke to his manager, a Mr Schuster, asking him to aid her and persuade Peters to remain at his job, which he has done so far.

Informant's suspicions were strengthened against Dietz when she saw in his room, letter paper headed, "Deeds and Co." Lieds and Co" as well as "Dietz and Co." although he has no tangible occupation.

Failing to dissuade Peters, and being now unable to obtain money from him to support her, informant left him, on the 15-9-31, having removed Dietz's property on the 5/6-9-31. On about the same date, Peters and Dietz also removed to No. 27 MacGregor Road, and are

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT (Sheet No. 3)

Bubbling Well Station,

Date Sept. 21st, 1931.

Subject (in full) _____

Made by D.S.I. Widdowson

Forwarded by _____

Cont.

living now with Dr. Fracke and others, at that address, where it is understood, meetings still take place. Dietz is a former German Army Officer, who was captured in 1915 by the Russian Army and interned for 5 years in Siberia. He subsequently was employed in the Russo-Asiatic Bank, Harbin and was then connected with the C.E.R. at Harbin. Subsequently he was transferred to Mukden and believed to have been connected with the Centrosogus there, and may have come to Shanghai on a Special mission. The above is supplemented by items obtained from Dietz by D.S. Maklaevsky, who conversed with Peters and he, after being instructed to obtain all possible information. The original statement of Mrs. Christensen is attached, and I beg to suggest that it be forwarded to the Special Branch together with a copy of this report.

D.S. Maklaevsky is likely to meet Dietz again and will obtain further particulars if possible.

A. Widdowson.
D.S.I.

on the 5th Sept at about 12 Midnight-

I removed property (which is now
in the hands of the Police authorities
from Mr. Hans Dietz, room
adjoining my room at No 18 Carter
Road. My reason for having done
this was, on the first instance from
motives of revenge & because I was
mad with anger to think that Mr.
Peters who has been fairly Steady &
good to me should now be influenced
by Mr. Dietz & join him every night,
practically, & come back all times of
the night & morning ~~and~~ & never seemed
to have any money, though I knew
from an interview I had with his

boss Mr. Shuster of the Cosmos Paper Co.
he had drawn besides his Salary \$200 on
on occasion & \$50 ~~on~~ ~~two~~ ~~times~~ - Twice.
and when I asked him for some money
to pay part of a debt, ~~what~~ he said
he had no money & another occasion
when I wanted 20 Cents to pay a tickshaw
he said he had no money & told - then
went to Dietz & got a Dollar
from him for me. - Well when I
found it was impossible to get any
money & I was being pressed for pay-
ment, in desperation I took the ~~other~~
his property & pawned it & raised the
necessary money by that means. because
I was expecting money from my people
& I intended eventually, taking the
property out again & returning it
to Mr. Dietz. Mr. Dietz came to

Shanghai looking for somebody who would
help him in his business & Mr. Peters at
the time being without a job and
knowing English, was introduced to
Dietz by a mutual friend & went round
with him to the different business places
in Shanghai trying to get advertisements for
the Chinese Eastern Ry: & other business
connected with the Central Society in
Mukden. & for which Mr. Dietz paid Peters
\$50/-. Just about that time Mr. Peters
who had been out of a job for a very
long period & was obliged to get help from
the German Benevolent Society, to pay ^{for} ~~his~~
boarding & lodging, secured a job, through
this same Society, with the Cosmos Paper
Co: on \$200 a month plus Commission &
Travelling expenses. He promised me that
he would pay all our debts & be able to
get along alright - when one day I overheard
Mr. Dietz talking with Peters & trying to

get him interested in this Soviet Concern & later Peters told me that he was going to give up his job & join Dietz & that I should go along with them to Hongkong - I tried to dissuade Mr Peters from taking this step & later I tried to ask ~~him~~ enlist - Mr Dietz sympathized & begged of him to leave Peters alone - but after that they - guiding that I was not in ~~their~~ sympathy with their scheme - ceased to talk business in my presence.

Later Dr. Fracke was brought into the scheme - and they spend all their time together planning & figuring out this proposed business. - Raising money from Chinese or on the sale of Dietz horses in Harbin to secure the Central Soviet Agency for Hong Kong, Manila & Shanghai. Dr. Fracke & Mr Dietz are both without jobs. Mr Dietz Russian & wife & family is in Harbin. Dr. Fracke

also has a family in Tsingtao & neither of them
has any money and the whole three of
them are very heavily in ~~debt~~ debt. Mr. Dietz
had to leave Harbin more or less secretly
because he owed money to various people &
after coming here liquidated his stable
business there (Race horses).

My reason for being so much
against Mr. Peters going into this business
scheme, is because I have felt from the
very beginning that there is something more
in this than merely the Trade of Soviet
goods & I tried to keep Mr. Peters from
getting mixed up in any thing that might
eventually lead him into serious trouble with
the police. There was another man staying
for at No 18 Carter Road who also had
some connection with the Central Soviet C
& Mr. Dietz. He used to spend many hours
sitting in the garden & whispering together so I
felt that there was something wrong.
Mr. Peters though a good man himself

is very easily led by others & I tried to save him
when I said I wouldn't go to Hong Kong
& work for them they turned completely against
me & kept me out of their confidence.

About a year or more ago ^{my Peter} he has
been very friendly with a man - German -
American Citizen - by the name of Charlie Crouch
who is well known to the Police in connection
with fire arms & was also trying to
influence Mr. Peters & get him to join him -
eventually he disappeared from our boarding
house - Taking away some of Peters property
& we haven't heard of him since.

Mr. Dietz appears to be a good man -
& apart from wanting to take my husband
away from a good job I have nothing against
him - but I feel that he is using my
husband Peter who is well known & has very good
connections & belongs to a very good family - to
suit his own ends & make a tool of him
& Peters can't see through it. —

Another fact that struck me as strange
was that — though Peters wanted me to
come to Hong Kong & Siao I could help them
in their business, Mr. Dietz spoke to me
privately & advised me to stay here &
not to join them for my own good!

Mr. Dietz came to Shanghai
with out anything except a couple of
hundred \$ which he borrowed before he
left Harbin — but now he seems to be
in very good circumstances — though the
business he originally came about was
not a success 'biz' — Central Eastern Ry
advertising, & he has done no other business
since, except trying to raise money for his
Soviet Scheme. & I have seen some of

Mr. Dietz later leads & found that he has
been doing business at various times under
the name of "Deeds & Co", "Lieds & Co"
& "Dietz & Co." He has, I understand

formerly connected with a Russian Bank
in Harbin & it has become of this connection that
he got this Central Soviet Agency & as soon as
he can raise enough capital - He, Mr. Fracke
& Mr. Peters are going ~~on~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ together
on the scheme. Mr. Peters representing the agency
at Hongkong Mr. Fracke at Manila &
Mr. Dietz at Mukden the name of the firm
to be Dietz & Co.

J. Christensen

20th September 1931.

6 Ferry Rd. - Flat 2.

C/o Miss M. Loane

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. I. D. REGISTRY
No. <u>1003</u>
Foreign Section
Date <u>Aug 7 1927</u>
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY
No. <u>D 2761</u>
Date <u>1 5 1927</u>

Subject (in full) Heinz F. Peters, alias Von Stretten.

Made by D. I. Robertson.

Forwarded by Jhr Robertson

**cc'd to
S.D. 2989*

Heinz F. Peters, a German citizen, is described as the son of a former Captain in the German Army named Von Stretten who left Germany many years ago for South Brazil where he died. Mrs. Von Stretten remained in Germany where she married a man named Peters whose surname Heinz F. Peters adopted by affidavit in New-York. In April 1925 H. F. Peters, who then described himself as a seaman, was issued with a passport at the local German Consulate for a trip to the United States, but apparently did not leave Shanghai as he was employed from April to December of the said year by the Tobacco Products Corporation (China) 1, Foochow Road who describe his services as satisfactory. Early in 1926 Peters left Shanghai for Yokohama where he was employed by the Ford Motor Co., until the beginning of August 1926 when he left of his own accord after a quarrel with another employee. His moral behaviour in Yokohama was not all that could be desired and after living at the Club Hotel Limited in that city he absconded without settling his bills. He also contracted other debts in Japan and was arrested by the Moji Police but later released as the complaint was entirely civil and Peters had no funds to meet his obligations. In the middle of September 1926 Peters arrived in Shanghai and resided in a boarding house at 118 Range Road. Owing to his proficient knowledge of the English, Swedish, German and French language Peters was appointed Constable on probation in the Shanghai Municipal Police on October 1, 1926 and resigned on February 15, 1927. In his letter of application he stated that he had been employed by different concerns in New-York, Montreal, Stockholm, Antwerp, Germany and Shanghai and gave as references the names of several firms in these cities. Peters is said to be married to an American citizen who is now reported to be in the United States.

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Station, _____

Date _____ 19 ____

Subject (in full) _____

(2)

Made by _____ Forwarded by _____

With reference to that part of the enquiry relative to Peters having been in business at 12 Yangtszepoo Road investigations show the said address to be a dwelling house at which he has never resided, nor has it been possible to locate Mrs. E.E. Fox and two sons.

H. Robertson

D. I.

In consequence of further information regarding Peters being to hand I beg to substitute the above report for that forwarded by D. S. O'Neill on July 15.

H.R.

*Copy to Col Halland
reference his latest
18/7
Sent per 18/7
Kop*

*See also
S.B.D. 2761
re H. J. Peters.*

File No. 8-2003

(C.I.D.) Office Notes

Foreign Section (Political Branch).

July 15, 1929.

H. F. Peters.

Sir;

Although exhaustive enquiries have been made, no trace of Peters can be found. Peters's statement that he was formerly employed at 12 Yangtsepoo Road appears to be a fabrication, as this address is a dwelling house and according to the house-agents, no one by the name of Peters has ever resided there.

It will be recalled that efforts were made to trace this individual in 1923 but without success, so that it appears likely that when in Shanghai, he uses some other name.

JB
Lefty on
here line
HCA

D. M. Finell

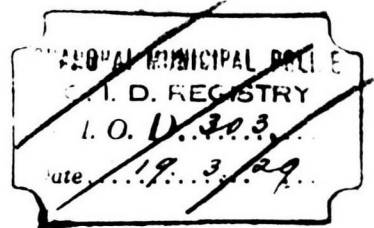
D. S.

With reference to Col. Halland's second letter of July 11, on the above subject I regret that inquiries were delayed owing to the temporary transfer of two of the staff of the Foreign Section.

H. Robertson
D. I.

A/ D. C. I.

C. D. I. Robertson
(Foreign Section)
Please see Col. Halland's letter
and enclosure of July 15 and report
again. July 17/7/29



SECRET

H. B. M. Consulate-General,
Shanghai.

15th. July, 1929.

My dear Aiers,

With reference to the correspondence
ending with my letter dated the 11th. of July,
1929, I send you herewith a copy of the statement
made by H.F.Peters to the Police Authorities in
India.

Yours sincerely,

C.H.M. Hall

R. C. Aiers, Esq.,

Assistant Commissioner of Police,

Criminal Investigation Department,

Shanghai Municipal Police,

SHANGHAI.

*L.C. (Sol)
Enquire as soon
as possible please
17/7. LCA*

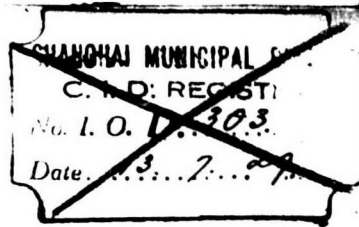
Copy of Statement of H. F. Peters

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I was born at Disteln, Germany, in 1894. My father's name is H.F.Venstitten and my mother's name is Anna He' Sasse Venstitten. My father was a captain in a German Army for some time. He left the Army and went to South America where he was doing some Banking business. He died in 1913. I was a student at the Munster University, Germany, till 1912. I went to Buenos Aires where I was working in some offices as a clerk. In 1913 I moved to the United States of America and was employed as an office clerk. In 1916, I married an American girl at New York. In 1917, I was sent out from H.B.Amussen (Incorporated) where I was working as a clerk. I went to Sweden as a Seaman on board of a ship the name of which I do not recollect. I was there till 1919 as a foreign correspondent in a Chemical Corporation which has since been wound up. I went back to New York and was employed in some firm. In 1921, I got a divorce from my wife. In 1922, I took out American papers and went to Shanghai Office of the Tobacco Products Corporation and stopped there till 1925. When my contract closed in 1925, I went to the United States. When I was on my way back to Shanghai, I got employment in the Ford Motor Company, Yokohama, where I remained for two years and married a German lady. She is now at Shanghai. I then joined the General Motors and was sent to Shanghai. During the Civil War there, I enlisted in Shanghai Municipal Police Force. Eight months after, I went back to the General Motors who sent me to Manila, Philippine Islands. On receipt of information of my mother's death in Germany, I left for the United States to take a boat to Germany. About the end of 1928 I applied again for a certificate from the Court of Hudson County, New Jersey, to declare myself an American. Before any order was passed, I left for Germany. I then travelled on the Continent visiting Holland, Belgium and Italy. In February last, I went to Port Said and signed on a tank motor vessel "Biscaya" of a German Shipping Agency under an American charter, probably of S.O.C. as a donkey man without specifying the period of service. I do not know the name of the Captain of the vessel or any

of the officers. The vessel visited Constantinople, Bombay and then Marmagosa, about the end of March. At Marmagosa, when I was out on shore, the boat left the harbour. I went to the local police who informed me that no report was made by the skipper about me. The vessel was expected to touch Borneo and then go back to Europe. I was staying for about two and a half weeks in the Lebe Hotel at Marmagosa. I was then sent to Bombay by the British Consul. My luggage and some papers were in the vessel when she sailed without me. At Bombay I was stopping in the Prince of Wales Seamen's Institute, Nicol Road. The French Consul directed me to go to Pondicherry and to catch a French Mail boat bound for China, and I was paid my railway fare to Pondicherry by the Institute. On 1.6.29 I left Bombay, reached Pondicherry on 4.6.29 touching Madras on 2.6.29. The British Consul sent me here. During my travel in Europe I had no passport. I had only the paper of identification given by the Common Pleas Court of Hudson County, New Jersey, on 5.11.28.

I have no money and I want to go to Shanghai



SECRET

H. B. M. Consulate-General,
Shanghai.

11th. July, 1929.

My dear Aiers,

With reference to my letter
of the 17th. of June, would you kindly let
me know whether you have yet been able to
obtain any information about the distressed
seaman H.F. Peters who arrived at Pondicherry
in India on the 7th. of June, 1929?

Yours sincerely,

C. H. A. Hall

R. C. Aiers, Esq.,

Assistant Commissioner of Police,

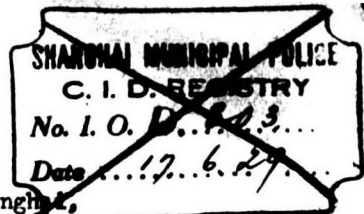
Criminal Investigation Department,

Shanghai Municipal Police,

SHANGHAI.

*For. Sec.
JR*

SECRET



Shanghai,

17th June 1929.

My dear Aiers,

One H.F.Peters, calling himself a distressed seaman, arrived at Pondicherry from Goa on the 7th June 1929. To the French police he gave his father's name as H.C. von Stetten and his mother's name as Anna von Stetten nee ~~Sassa~~. He also stated that his wife E.E.Fox and two sons were in Shanghai and that he had been in business at 12 Yangtsepoo Road. The British Consul at Pondicherry regards "H.F.Peters" as a mysterious person. His description is given as follows:-

Age about 35; tall; medium ^{build} height; broad face; clean shaven; one tooth stopped with gold; speaks English and French.

Would you kindly let me know whether you can obtain any information about this individual?

Yours sincerely,

C.H.H. Hall - C.

*A.C. Pol
I think we
know him.
17/6 LCA*

No. 6107
H. B. M. Consulate-General,
20.4.25
SHANGHAI,

No. 8178/23.

10th December, 1923.

Sir,

With reference to my enquiry of November 2nd and your reply of November 14th relating to one "Harold Peters", I have the honour to enclose copy of a further despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Nanking from which it appears that "Harold Peters" has been passing himself off as "H. Pearlsmen."

* See L.O. 6107.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

St. Barton.

Consul-General.

K. J. McEuen, Esquire,
Commissioner of Police,
S H A N G H A I.

COPY

6107
No. 6107
Date Dec. 20
British Consulate-General,

NANKING,

3rd December, 1923.

Sir,

With reference to my letter to you of 31st October, I have now ascertained that "Harold Peters" came to Nanking from Hsien and obtained food and money from Mr. Roberts of the American Church Mission. He called himself H. Pearlman and said that he had been teaching English in a school in South Shantung which had been burned by bandits. He said he was a Roumanian but Mr. Roberts thinks his good command of English belied him. The man's statements are evidently false but he does not appear to have swindled on an extensive scale.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. T. Pratt,

Acting Consul-General.

S. Barton, Esquire, C.M.G.,

H.B.M. Consul-General,

SHANGHAI.

PETERS, Hans Sletten
Comintern agent.

FRACKE, K. P. (Dr.)
German. Engineer by profession.
Connected with Centrosojus

DIETZ, Hans
German. Ex-officer of German Army.

CHRISTENSEN, M. (Mrs.)

ROVER
Former local representative of TASS

SMP

SMP: No. D 2764